

Saint David's Day Dinner

March 1, 2004

Carbondale, PA 18407

Program set honoring local Welsh heritage

The Carbondale Historical Society will commemorate the Welsh heritage of Carbondale with a St. David's Day dinner, concert, and historical program on Monday, March 1.

"St. David is the patron saint of Wales. He was a Celtic monk, abbot, and bishop, who lived in the sixth century," stated Historical Society treasurer Joseph Pascoe. "He became the archbishop of Wales and was one of many early saints who helped to spread Christianity among the pagan Celtic tribes of western Britain."

"The celebration will begin," noted Barbara James Campbell of the reservations committee, "with a sit-down dinner at the Church Street Grille, where tra-

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WELSH CELEBRATION SET — Barbara James Campbell (left) and S. Robert Powell met recently at the library to plan the St. David's Day celebration March 1. (NEWS photo by Tom Flannery)

— Welsh —

continued from front page

ditional Welsh dishes, including cream of leek and potato soup, roast pork and Welsh cookies, will be featured on the dinner menu."

Following the dinner, the historical program and musical entertainment will take place. The master of ceremonies for the evening will be the Historical Society's president, S. Robert Powell, who will speak on the early Welsh settlement of the upper Lackawanna Valley.

"The Welsh settlements here were very early," observed S. Robert Powell. "In the summer of 1830," he noted, "20 Welsh families came to Carbondale to work in the newly established coal mines. Among them were John and James Bowen and their wives. In 1835, a Welsh Congregational Church was organized in Carbondale and a house of worship was erected on South Church Street."

"And the first *eisteddfod*, a choral and literary celebration that occupies a central role in Welsh life and tradition, took place in the United States in

Carbondale on Christmas day, 1850," Powell added. "That is a very important 'first' for Carbondale."

A highlight of the evening will be a concert of Welsh music by the St. David's Welsh Male Chorus with Fran Justin, director. Carbondale resident Bob Vandenberg has been a member of this chorus for many years.

"This St. David's Day celebration is an event that will be of special interest to all persons of Welsh descent in Carbondale,"

commented Eleanor Spellman, secretary of the Historical Society. "But the dinner and celebration are open to all persons who are interested in commemorating the history of Carbondale and the upper Lackawanna Valley."

To make reservations for this St. David's Day dinner and celebration, contact Barbara James Campbell (222-9229), Attorney Jeffrey Nepa (282-7050), or Joseph Pascoe (282-4234).

Getting Ready for the Show



RICH BANICK / THE SCRANTON TIMES

Fran Justin conducts the St. David's Men's Choir at the United Baptist Church. Their performance will be at the St. David's Day

Dinner, sponsored by the Carbondale Historical Society, on Monday, March 1.

THE TRIBUNE, SCRANTON, PA

THURSDAY, JANUARY 29, 2004

Hometown



RICH BANICK / TRIBUNE STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Concert rehearsal

From left, Bill Keller, Jim Justin and Al Zeiss practice with the St. David's Men's Choir at the United Baptist Church. Their performance will be at the St. David's Day Dinner sponsored by the Carbondale Historical Society on March 1.

Getting Ready for the Show



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Fran Justin conducts the St. David's Men's Choir at the United Baptist Church. Their performance will be at the St. David's Day

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WELSH HERITAGE — Members of the Welsh Congregational Church gathered with their pastor, Rev. L. Williams in 1880 at the church at Eighth Ave. and S. Church St. Standing 13th

and 14th from left are John T. Jones and Grace Hollis Jones. The area's Welsh heritage will be celebrated at a dinner program on March 1. (Courtesy of Carbondale Historical Society)

Welsh heritage dinner program to feature Welsh Male Chorus

The Saint David's Welsh Male Chorus of Scranton will perform as part of the St. David's Day dinner and program to be held on Monday, March 1.

The event, sponsored by the Carbondale Historical Society, will begin at 6 p.m. with dinner at the Church St. Grille, N. Church St. For tickets, call Joseph Pascoe (282-4234), Barbara James Campbell (222-9229), or Attorney Jeffrey Nepa (282-7050).

Among the chorus selections

will be "Men of Harlech," "Arwelfa," "Penpark," "We'll Keep a Welcome," "Morte Criste," "All Through the Night," and "Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah."

The St. David's Chorus, organized in 1949 by the late William R. Hughes of Scranton, will be conducted by Mrs. Fran Justin of Clarks Summit. She is also the director and organist at Ransom Methodist Church.

Accompanist will be Maud Thomas, the retired organist of Clarks Summit First

Presbyterian Church.

Chorus members include 12 men — three tenors, two second tenors, three baritones, and four basses. Bob Vandenberg, Washington St., Carbondale, is a member and will perform in this concert.

The program will feature the recognition of Carbondale's Welsh heritage, which included the Welsh Congregational Church, established in 1835 on the southwest corner of Eighth Ave. and S. Church St.

Dydd Gwyl Ddewi



St David's Day

St. David's Day Dinner, Concert, and Historical Program

March 1, 2004

**Hosted by the
Carbondale Historical Society
and Museum**

St. David's Day Committee

**Barbara James Campbell, Jeffrey Nepa, Esquire,
Joseph Pascoe, S. Robert Powell, and Eleanor Spellman**



**To be born Welsh is to be born privileged.
Not with a silver spoon in your mouth, but
with music in your blood and poetry in your soul.**

**Church Street Grille, Carbondale, PA
Richard and Marie Michalek, proprietors**

PROLOGUE

**Welcome.....Dr. S. Robert Powell, President of the
Carbondale Historical Society and Master of Ceremonies**

**Who Was Saint David?.....Joseph Pascoe, Treasurer
of the Carbondale Historical Society**

Invocation.....Dr. S. Robert Powell

DINNER

Prepared by and under the direction of Chef Richard Michalek

Roast Pork with Apple Stuffing

Apple Sauce

Scalloped Potatoes

Sliced Carrots

Bread and Butter

**Cherry Nut Cake, decorated with Welsh Dragon (created by
Barbour's Bakery, Carbondale)**

Vanilla Ice Cream with Creme de Menthe

Coffee and Tea

Table Decorations

Daffodils blossom at the time of St. David's Day and are inseparable from Welsh history and tradition. No St. David's Day celebration would be complete without daffodils. The leek has been the Welsh national badge for many centuries. In Wales, it is customary to wear a leek on St. David's Day.

According to a legend used by English poet Michael Drayton, 1563-1631, the leek was associated with St. David because he ordered his soldiers to wear it on their helmets in a battle against the Saxon invaders of Britain that took place in a field full of leeks.

Welsh archers (perhaps in the Battle of Crecy and others) adopted the green and white colors of the leek as early as the 14th century to distinguish their uniforms from those of their enemies.

The Welsh cookies that are at each place setting were baked for this occasion by Barbara James Campbell, Hank Loftus, Susan Mazza, Tony Morell, and Lynda Nepa. The daffodil and Welsh dragon napkins at each place setting were sent to us from Wales especially for this grand occasion by Howard and Joyce Williams of Crickhowell, South Wales.

CONCERT

National Anthems

The Star-Spangled Banner

Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau (The Land of My Fathers)

(words and music given here on page 6-7)

St. David's Welsh Male Chorus

Mrs. Fran Justin, Director

Miss Maud Thomas, Piano

Program

Men of Harlech

Arwelfa

Penpark

We'll Keep a Welcome*

Morte Criste

All Through the Night

Cwm Rhondda

*** Everyone is invited to join the Chorus in a repeat of the refrain. The words are printed below.**

**We'll keep a welcome in the hillsides,
We'll keep a welcome in the vales,
This land you knew will still be singing,
When you come home again to Wales,
This land of song will keep a welcome,
And with a love that never fails,
Will kiss away each hour of Hiraerth
When you come home again to Wales,
Will kiss away each hour of Hiraerth,
When you come home again to Wales.**

"Blessed is a world that sings. Gentle are its songs."

T. Gwynn Jones

St. David's Welsh Male Chorus

The year 2004 marks the fifty-fifth anniversary of the founding of the St. David's Welsh Male Chorus of Scranton, PA. The Chorus is very active throughout the year in Scranton and northeastern Pennsylvania.

The chorus was organized in 1949 by the late William R. Hughes of Scranton. The group inherited ninety percent of its musical library from the Scranton Younger Maennerchor. Some of the original Welsh members were Arwel Hughes (brother of William Hughes), Dan Protheroe, Emrys Jones, and Bryan Davies.

Directing the chorus at the present time is Mrs. Fran Justin from Clarks Summit, who is also director and organist for the Ransom Methodist Church. The accompanist is Ms. Maud Thomas, who is the retired organist of the Clarks Summit First Presbyterian Church. There are twelve men in the chorus at present: first tenor, 3; second tenor, 2; baritone, 3; and bass, 4.

Groups interested in hosting performances by the chorus should contact Mrs. Fran Justin (570-587-5889) or Warren Grill (570-586-2159).

TEA TABLE

Following the concert by the St. David's Welsh Male Chorus there will be a ten-minute pause in the evening's program. Dinner guests are invited to have a cup of tea and a Welsh cookie at the tea table set up in the dining room. Special thanks to Barbara Campbell, Joseph Pascoe, and S. Robert Powell for providing the tea services, china, and silver.

Welsh Motto

Y Gwir Yn Erbyn y Byd

(The Truth against the World)

Welsh Love Spoon

A beautiful Welsh Love Spoon, made in Wales from Welsh ash, has been donated to the St. David's Day dinner by Barbara James Campbell. During the historical program, we'll learn more about Welsh Love Spoons from Barbara Campbell.

HISTORICAL PROGRAM

- The Welsh of Carbondale.....S. Robert Powell**
- About David Lloyd George.....Joseph Pascoe**
- "An Immigrant Ancestor's Prayer"...Barbara James Campbell**
- Proclamation.....The Honorable Justin M. Taylor,
Mayor, City of Carbondale**
- Letters of Greetings/Congratulations...reported by S. R. Powell**
- Tell Us about Your Welsh Heritage.....Everyone**
- Presentation.....Barbara James Campbell**
- God Bless America.....Everyone**

Nos Da

First Eisteddfod in America Held in Carbondale, Christmas Day 1850

Dr. D. E. Jones, Mus. Bac., wrote Chapter XIX, Music in Lackawanna County, in Thomas Murphy's two-volume *Jubilee History [of] Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania* that was published in 1928, commemorative of the 50th anniversary of the creation of Lackawanna County.

Therein, in Volume One (pp. 338-39), Murphy states: "... it may be well to point to Carbondale as the birthplace of Eisteddfod, not only in this county but in the United States. . . The Carbondale eisteddfod referred to was held Christmas Day, 1850, and among the literarians and musicians who attended were Daniel Davies, Rev. John Moses, Thomas Eynon, Rev. Thomas J. Phillips (Cyw Ionawr), and Edward Jones. These were the pioneer eisteddofdwyr of America."

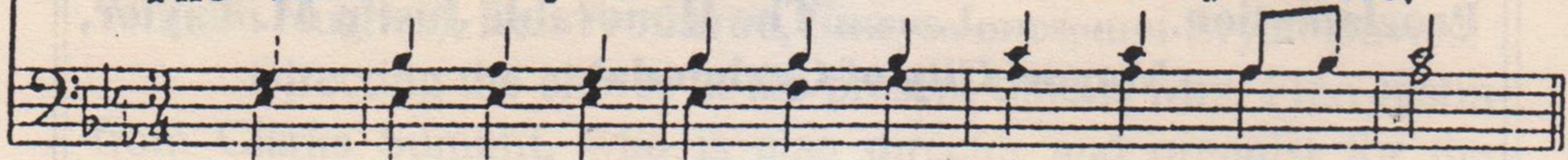
Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau (Land of My Fathers)

Moderately, fervently

WELSH MELODY
JAMES JAMES (IAGO AP IEUAN) (1833-1902)
Arr. GWYNN WILLIAMS



Mae hen wlad fy nhad-au yn an-nwyl I mi,
The land of my fathers, the land of my choice,



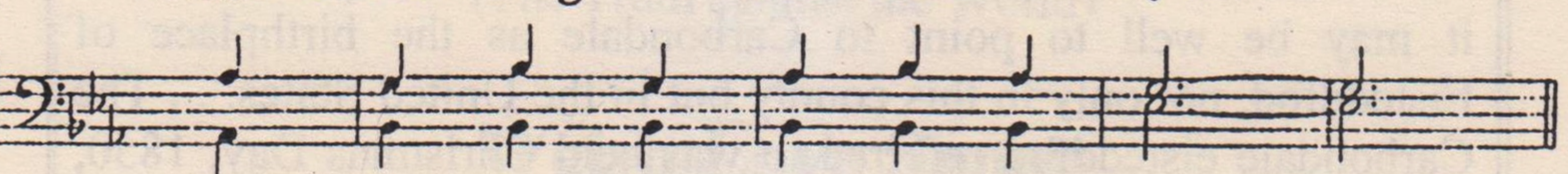
Gwlad beirdd a chan-tor-ion, en-wog-ion o fri;
The land in which po-ets and mins-trels rejoice;




Ei gw-rol ry-fel-wyr, gwlad-gar-wyr tra mad,
The land whose stern warriors were true to the core,




Tros ry-ddid go-llas-ant eu gwaed.
While bleed-ding for free-dom of yore.



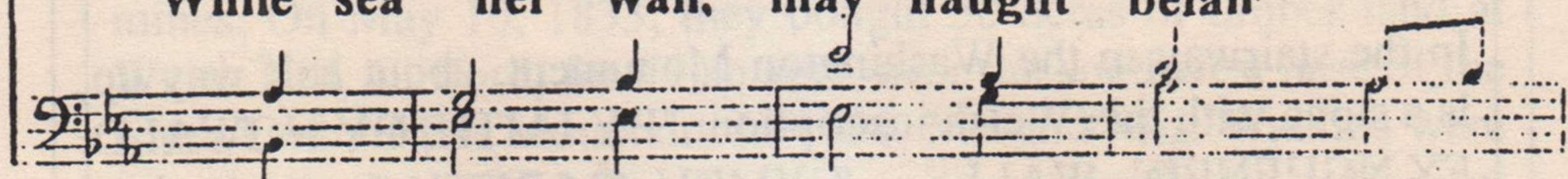

CHORUS



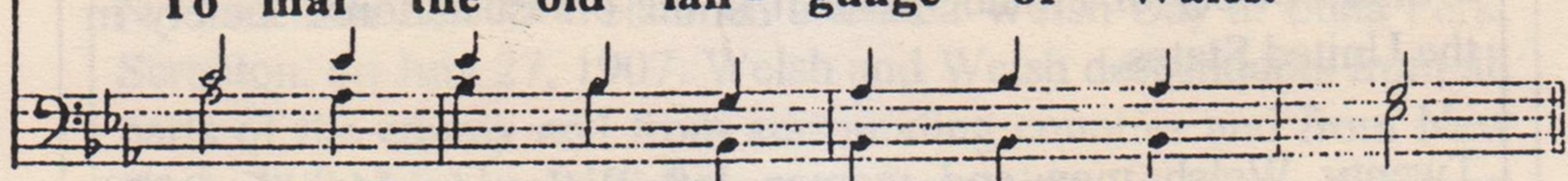
Gwlad, Gwlad, pleid - iol wyf i'm gwlad.
Wales! Wales! Fav' - rite land of Wales!

Tra mor yn fur i'r bur hoff
While sea her wall, may naught befall

Bau, O by-dded i'r hen aith bar - hau.
To mar the old lan - guage of Wales.



Welsh Words,
Evan James (Ieuan ap Iago)
(1809 - 1878)

English Words,
Ebenezer Thomas (Eban Fardd)
(1802 - 1863)



Some Interesting Facts about Welsh Americans

Fifteen signers of the Declaration of Independence were Welsh or of Welsh descent, as have been nine presidents of the United States.

These colleges and universities were founded by Welshmen: Yale, Princeton, Brown, William and Mary, Virginia, Johns Hopkins, and Andover.

Robert Morris (Revolutionary War financier), William Penn, and Roger Williams were all Welsh.

In the stairway in the Washington Monument, about half way up, is a stone with this Welsh inscription: "BY IAITH, GY NGWALD, FY NGHENEDL WALES... CYMRU AM BYTH."

In 1729 a small group of Welsh people living in Philadelphia founded the Society of Ancient Britons to honor St. David. After the Revolutionary War, the group reorganized as the St. David's Welsh Society of Philadelphia. It is the oldest national society in the United States.

Twenty Welsh men and women left Wales on May 6, 1830, arriving in New York on July 2, and in Carbondale on July 14, 1830. These Welsh pioneers came to Carbondale to work in the newly established mines of the Delaware and Hudson Canal Company. Among them were four regular Baptists, John and James Bowen and their wives. John was a deacon in the church from whence he came, while James was a minister of the Baptist faith. Mrs. John Bowen, born Martha Phillips in September 1778, was a member of the Lanwenarth Baptist Church in Wales, where she and John Bowen were married in 1808. Mrs. Bowen died in Blakely on December 13, 1858, at the age of 82.

In 1880, there were as many as 83,302 natives of Wales in America. In 1890, there were 100,079 Welsh born in the United States.

Three Welsh churches were established in Carbondale in the 1830s by the pioneer Welsh settlers of Carbondale: Welsh Calvinistic Methodist Church (established in 1832 or 1833); First Baptist Church (formed spring 1833, dissolved spring of 1891); Welsh Congregational Church (established 1835. The Berean Baptist Church (English Baptists, many Welsh members), was established March 1, 1848.

The Welsh Hill church: Bethel Congregational Church, incorporated April 12, 1869. The settlement of Welsh Hill was begun by Thomas and Hannah Watkins, natives of Carmarthenshire, South Wales, who left Wales in 1831, and after a voyage of about 2 months, landed in New York. In 1832, they were in Carbondale, where Mr. Watkins worked in the anthracite mines. On May 10, 1833, they bought 50 acres of timber land at Welsh Hill, Clifford, for \$3 an acre, near the southwest base of the south knob of Elk Mountain. In 1834, Mr. and Mrs. Watkins were joined by other Welsh families and a permanent Welsh settlement was established. The present Bethel Congregational Church (the third building erected by the congregation) was dedicated on June 10, 1888.

No less than 22,000 Welshmen attended Welsh Day at Luna Park, Scranton, on July 27, 1907. Welsh and Welsh descendants from all parts of the county and from surrounding counties and from New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, and from cities in Ohio, Vermont, and Virginia converged on Scranton. An eisteddfod was held. One of the highlights of the day was the lighting of the lights, when Theodore Roosevelt pushed a button in the White House and the lights at Luna Park blazed into brilliance.

The Washburn Street Cemetery, Scranton, is one of the largest Welsh cemeteries in America, with over 18,500 interments therein, including 109 of the 165 men and boys, the majority of them Welsh, killed in the Avondale mine fire on March 6, 1869.

Cwmru am byth!
(Wales Forever!)

Thank You

Berean Baptist Church: for lending a piano for this evening's concert; also for the use of church parking lot.

C. B. Tomaine Insurance: for the use of the Tomaine parking lot.

Howard and Joyce Williams of Crickhowell, South Wales: for providing daffodil and dragon napkins; also a St. David's Day flag.

Barbara James Campbell, Hank Loftus, Susan Mazza, Tony Morell, and Lynda Nepa: the bakers of the Welsh cookies that were presented and served this evening.

Barbara James Campbell, Joseph Pascoe, and S. Robert Powell: tea table china and silver.

Joe Bryer and the Genealogical Research Society of Northeastern Pennsylvania: for sending out an electronic announcement of the St. David's Day dinner, concert, and historical program to their membership.

Barbara James Campbell: for the Welsh Love Spoon.

The City of Carbondale: logistical support that contributed significantly to the success of the concert by the St. David's Welsh Male Chorus.

Howard Yepson: for tuning the piano used this evening.

The Red Dragon

Y Ddraig Goch is the emblem of the Welsh people, and since the time of Uther Pendragon, father of King Arthur, the Dragon has been used on the Standards of the Welsh kings. The Dragon protected his own and inspired terror in the enemy. When Henry VII was crowned king of England in 1485, he ordered that the Red Dragon be officially displayed on the Welsh flag. Often the Red Dragon is allied with the words:

Y Ddraig Goch a ddyry Gychwyn

(The Red Dragon will show the way.)

CARBONDALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND MUSEUM, INC.

Located on the third floor of Carbondale City Hall, Main Street, Carbondale, PA

Post Office Box 151, Carbondale, PA 18407 570-282-0385

history18407@crosswinds.net

www.geocities.com/srp18407/CarbondaleHistory.html

Individual annual membership, \$25; senior citizen, \$15; corporate member, \$100;
supporting member, \$1,000.

We are a 501(c)3 organization. All donations are tax-deductible.

The Carbondale Historical Society is a membership organization, with research facilities and services available to members and non-members.



Carbondale Historical Society

Mission Statement

The Carbondale Historical Society and Museum is an organized and permanent educational and historical organization whose mission is to record, gather, and preserve the history of the city of Carbondale and the surrounding area.

Through its genealogical and local history research center and exhibition galleries on the third floor of Carbondale City hall (listed in the National Register of Historic Places on January 6, 1983, through the efforts of the Society) and through an annual series of public lectures, programs, exhibitions, and commemorative ceremonies, in the community and in the public schools, the Society, at the same time, interprets and makes accessible to the public the City's rich, diverse, and unique history and heritage.

The Carbondale Historical Society and Museum is committed to the central values of (1) maintaining the highest possible standards in all its endeavors, (2) providing excellent service to the public at all times, and (3) demonstrating leadership and innovation in the field of local history.

St. David's Day dinner marks aspects of area Welsh heritage

Americans of Welsh descent as well as supporters of the rich and diverse ethnic heritage of the city of Carbondale, came from far and near to celebrate St. David's Day in Carbondale on Monday, March 1. The celebration, hosted by the Carbondale Historical Society, took place at the Church Street Grille, North Church Street.

Both of the restaurant's south dining rooms (decorated with Welsh flags and the flag of St. David, plus a large and interesting display of Welsh memorabilia from the collection of Barbara James Campbell, Clifford) were filled to capacity with citizens of Welsh descent and a broad range of civic and community minded citizens and friends who came together to celebrate Carbondale's Welsh heritage.

The master of ceremonies for the evening was the president of the Historical Society, Dr. S. Robert Powell who, after welcoming the guests, introduced the Society's treasurer, Joseph Pascoe, who spoke about the patron saint of Wales, St. David, and his life and works, and his importance to the Welsh people. Dr. Powell offered an invocation, after which the dinner was served.

The traditional dinner, featuring roast pork, was prepared by and under the direction of Chef Richard Michalek. The dinner began with leek and potato soup, a traditional Welsh dish. At each place setting was a daffodil or Welsh dragon napkin, all of which were sent to Carbondale especially for this celebration from Crickhowell, South Wales, by Howard and Joyce Williams.

Featured in the decorations on each table were daffodils and leeks. Daffodils blossom at the time of St. David's Day and are inseparable from Welsh history and tradition.

The leek has been the Welsh national badge for many centu-

ries. In Wales, it is customary to wear a leek on St. David's Day. According to legend used by English poet Michael Drayton, the leek was associated with St. David because he ordered his soldiers to wear it on their helmets in a battle against the Saxon invaders of Britain that took place in a field full of leeks. The soldiers wore the leeks on their helmets in battle so that

they could be easily distinguished from the enemy in the heat of the battle.

Following the dinner, the St. David's Welsh Male Chorus of Scranton took the stage, under the direction of Mrs. Fran Justin, with Miss Maud Thomas, wearing traditional Welsh attire, at the piano. Mrs. Justin is

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-Welsh-

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the director and organist for the Ransom Methodist Church; Miss Thomas is the retired organist of the Clarks Summit First Presbyterian Church.

The musical portion of the evening began with the singing of the American and Welsh national anthems. The Welsh national anthem, "Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau" ("The Land of My Fathers"), was sung both in English and Welsh.

The St. David's Chorus then sang "Men of Harlech," "Arwelfa," "Penpark," "We'll Keep a Welcome," "Morte Criste," "All Through the Night," and "Cwm Rhondda," all of which were warmly received by the entire house. For the singing of "We'll Keep a Welcome," the dinner guests were asked by the director to join the chorus in singing a repeat of the refrain.

This year is the 55th anniversary of the founding of the St. David's Chorus, which was organized in 1949 by William R. Hughes of Scranton. There are 12 men in the chorus at the present time, including Bob Vandenberg, Washington Street.

During the intermission that followed the concert by the St. David's Chorus, the dinner guests were invited to have a cup of tea and Welsh cookies at the tea table in the dining room. Barbara James Campbell, Hank Loftus, Susan Mazza, Tony Morell and Lynda Nepa were the bakers of the Welsh cookies that were served at the tea table and presented as favors at each place setting.

The historical program that followed began with a paper by S. Robert Powell on the pioneer Welsh settlers of Carbondale. Joseph Pascoe then spoke about David Lloyd George. Barbara Campbell then spoke about her Welsh ancestry and read a poem titled "An Immigrant Ancestor's Prayer."



WELSH HERITAGE CELEBRATED — Among those who participated in the St. David's Day dinner celebrating Welsh heritage at the Church Street Grille on March 1 were (standing, left to right) Dr. S. Robert Powell, Joseph Pascoe, Jim

Justin, Bill Keller, Bob Vandenberg, Andy Kepler, and Warren Grill; (seated) Barbara Campbell, Maud Thomas, Fran Justin, and Eleanor Spellman. (NEWS photo by Tom Flannery)

Carbondale Mayor Justin M. Taylor issued a proclamation declaring March 1, 2004 to be Welsh Heritage Day and asked that all citizens of Carbondale recognize the importance in the city's history of the Welsh pioneer settlers and the Welsh community, and commemorate this day annually with appropriate ceremonies.

S. Robert Powell shared with the group several letters of congratulations and greetings sent to the Carbondale St. David's Day celebration, including one from Crickhowell, South Wales by Howard and Joyce Williams, the Llangattock Town Council, and the Talgarth Male Voice Choir.

Letters of greeting and congratulations were also received from William J. Davis (Portland, Oregon), Cheryl Moore (state of Indiana), Bill Curnow (Port Charlotte, Florida), Tom Price and Glen Jenkins (Swansea).

Powell noted that an announcement of the Carbondale St. David's Day celebration was posted on the internet through Joe Bryer at the Genealogical Research Society of Northeastern Pennsylvania. Powell then introduced to the group Lawrence Vernon and Mary Stradley, from Princeton, N.J., who saw the notice on the internet and arranged to come to Carbondale for the dinner and the celebration.

The floor was also turned over to dinner guests to speak about their Welsh connections and heritage. Robert Wise and Gerald Williams then shared with the group interesting and informative accounts about Welsh family members or his-

tory. Marianne Stratford, Forest City, recited a poem in Welsh that she learned from her late husband, William, who learned the poem from his Welsh grandmother.

Barbara Campbell spoke about Welsh love spoons and their many meanings and noted that they are frequently presented to individuals to wish them good luck, happiness and prosperity. On behalf of the Welsh community of Carbondale, Dr. Powell presented Mayor Taylor with a carved Welsh love spoon that was made in Wales from Welsh ash and

donated to the Carbondale St. David's Day celebration by Barbara James Campbell.

The Carbondale St. David's dinner, concert and historical program concluded with a performance by the entire assembly of "God Bless America," sung under the direction of Mrs. Susan Postlethwaite.

The Carbondale Historical Society has resolved to celebrate the Welsh heritage of Carbondale with an annual St. David's Day dinner, concert and historical program.

(Submitted by Dr. S. Robert Powell)

Many Attend Welsh Heritage Dinner

By S. Robert Powell

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Letters of greetings and congratulations were also received from William J. Davis (Portland, OR), Cheryl Moore (state of Indiana), Bill Curnow (Port Charlotte, FL), Tom Price, and Glen Jenkins (Swansea).

Powell noted that an announcement of the Carbondale St. David's Day celebration was posted on the Internet through Joe Bryer at the Genealogical Research Society of Northeastern Pennsylvania. Powell then introduced to the group Lawrence Vernon and Mary Stradley, from Princeton, NJ, who saw the notice on the Internet and arranged to come to Carbondale for the dinner and the celebration.

The floor was then turned over to the dinner guests to speak about their Welsh connections and heritage. Robert Wise and Gerald Williams then shared with the group interesting and informative accounts about Welsh family members or history. Marianne Stratford, Forest City, then recited a poem in Welsh that she learned from her late husband, William, who learned the poem from his Welsh grandmother.

Barbara Campbell then spoke about Welsh love spoons and their many meanings and noted that they are frequently presented to individuals to wish them good luck, happiness, and prosperity. On behalf of the Welsh community of Carbondale, Dr. Powell then presented Mayor Justin M. Taylor with a beautifully carved Welsh love spoon that was made in Wales from Welsh ash and donated to the Carbondale St. David's Day celebration by Barbara James Campbell.

The Carbondale St. David's Day dinner, concert, and historical program then concluded with a beautiful performance by the entire assembly of *God Bless America*, sung under the direction of Mrs. Susan Postlethwaite.

The Carbondale Historical Society has resolved to celebrate the Welsh heritage of Carbondale with an annual St. David's Day dinner, concert, and historical program.

* * * * *



City of Carbondale, Pennsylvania

PROCLAMATION NUMBER 8 - 2004

WHEREAS, Welsh men and women came into this valley in Northeastern Pennsylvania from the farms, industrial areas, and mountains of Wales, beginning in the second decade of the nineteenth century to establish their homes and new lives; and

WHEREAS, the Welsh who came here helped construct the Delaware and Hudson Canal Company's Gravity Railroad from Carbondale to Honesdale, then worked in the company's anthracite mines in Carbondale and on the company's rail line in Honesdale; and

WHEREAS, these Welsh men and women, pioneers in the fullest sense of the word, were God-fearing folks and here, in what was then a virtual wilderness, established, within a decade of their arrival, no less than three houses of worship: the Welsh Calvinistic Methodist Church, the First Baptist Church, and the Welsh Congregational Church; and

WHEREAS, the Welsh belief that the family and the church play a key role in community life, together with the energy, industry, ambition, desire to succeed, and capacity for hard work, these Welsh pioneers played a key role in the transformation of the village of Carbondale into a thriving industrial town and ultimately the "Pioneer City" of Lackawanna County; and

WHEREAS, those worthy Welsh men and women bequeathed to their families and to us, the community, a rich heritage, which we commemorate and celebrate today.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Justin M. Taylor, Mayor of the City of Carbondale, Pennsylvania, do hereby acknowledge those assembled here and those who inaugurated this celebration of Carbondale's Welsh heritage. In addition, I do hereby proclaim *Monday, March 01, 2004* as

WELSH HERITAGE DAY

and ask that all citizens recognize and commemorate this day with appropriate ceremonies in honor of the importance of the Welsh people to our City's history.


Justin M. Taylor
Mayor



Opinion

Letters to the Editor

St. David's Day event enjoyable

To the editor:

On March 1, I attended the St. David's Day dinner, concert and historical program at the Church Street Grille even though I don't have one speck of Welsh blood in my veins.

It has been years since I at-

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tended such a outstanding event. The dinner was extra special and delicious, the decorations were appropriate to the occasion and interesting to view, the St. David's Welsh Male Chorus was outstanding and the historical program stimulating and educational.

I felt a new vibrancy resounding in your city by the presentations given by Dr. S Robert Powell, Joseph Pascoe, Barbara James Campbell and Mayor Justin Taylor.

As a person immersed in appreciating and understanding our local history, I thought that all presentations certainly added their own page to the present history of Carbondale.

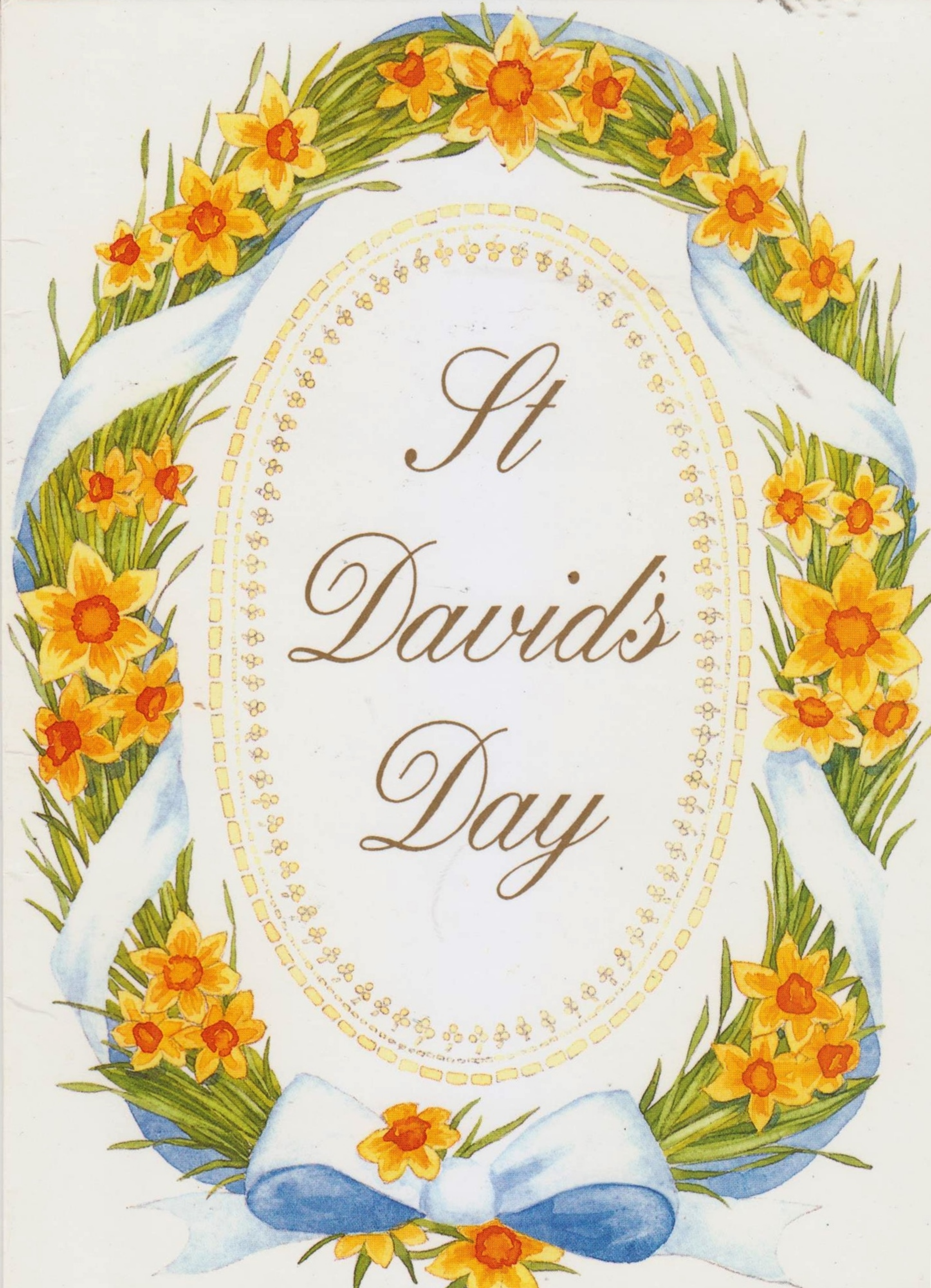
The program stated, "To be born Welsh is to be born privi-

leged, not with a silver spoon in your mouth, but with music in your blood and poetry in your soul." The combined presentations certainly added music and poetry to everyone's soul in attendance.

It was simply an outstanding event in every way and I look forward to attending more in the future.

Congratulations to the committee for your dedication and hard work!

**Jane M. Varcoe, president
Waymart Area
Historical Society**



St
David's
Day